

Overall this is a beautifully produced book, with informative and readable descriptions of all the common HIV manifestations, and illustrated with over 200 good quality diagrams and clinical pictures. I am sure that this will be appreciated by those wishing to learn more about HIV, and valued for its illustrations by those with more experience in the field.

SARAH EDWARDS

**HIV Infection in Women.** Edited by H Minkoff, J DeHovitz, A Duerr. New York: Raven Press, 1995. (pp 328, US \$123.50). ISBN 0-7817-0236-4.

There are now several multi author texts about HIV and women and all must find a compromise between being a complete textbook on HIV, with some special reference to women, or concentrating solely on women-specific issues and thereby appearing to suggest that women differ from men only in their possession of a uterus. This latest American version achieves a useful balance, apart perhaps from a lengthy and detailed chapter on basic virology and pathophysiology for which, I suspect, few readers would consult this book.

The book is divided into two parts. The first, *Basic Considerations* includes a concise and depressing account of the epidemiology of HIV infection in women. The section on vaccines is rather long considering these are not yet of any clinical relevance and have few gender specific implications. There are excellent overviews of the natural history of HIV infection and heterosexual transmission. The two chapters on psychology and psychosocial issues, make stimulating reading despite an acknowledged paucity of data in this area and some overlap.

The second part is headed *Clinical Considerations* and has well-written chapters on medical management, contraception, pregnancy, sexually transmitted disease interactions, injecting drug use and counselling services. The chapter on HPV provides a comprehensive but unwieldy list of studies of the interactions between HIV, HPV and CIN. The last chapter looks at the ethics, politics and science of new-born screening for HIV. Much of this is peculiar to the United States and seems less relevant

to Europe where the debate is more focused on antenatal screening.

Overall, there is much to recommend in this book but a few minor quibbles include: an index that lists AZT and zidovudine separately, some unnecessary repetition between chapters and an obviously US approach which therefore says little about primary health care. The editors wish this book to be found "dog-eared in clinics"—I would strongly recommend its perusal before reaching the clinic.

D MERCEY

**Sexual Health Promotion in Genito-urinary Medicine Clinics. Contributions to a Conference.** Edited by J PILLAYE. London Health Education Authority. (Pp 77; £17.50.) ISBN 1-7521-0285-0

This book is a compilation of the presentations given to a conference held in March 1994 organised by the Health Education Authority. It is a well set out book, easy to read, and with an introduction by Dr Jayshree Pillaye offers 12 chapters of health promotion in genitourinary medicine from personal multidisciplinary perspectives.

The aim of the conference was to explore the opportunities and challenges for wider sexual health promotion in a GUM setting. The introduction offers a definition of sexual health and goes on to look at the pre-requisites for the promotion of sexual health, including the importance of a fully integrated service for the users including both GUM and Family Planning services.

Chapter one looks at the similarities and differences of the two services; consultants in gynaecology and family planning show how the "same women" use both. The authors suggest that the consequences of not meeting these needs are pregnancy and infection, and recommend cross staffing of both specialities. In chapter three a genitourinary medicine consultant looks at the provision of such a service, the author introducing a comparison of GUM and conventional gynaecology, one spending much time with sex and recreation, the other with sex and procreation! He offers a potted history of sexuality issues, and highlights the particular needs of women. Chapter four then

goes on to describe a Women Only clinic, which on evaluation, demonstrates the benefits of offering this specific service.

The results of a short patient survey of sexual health promotion in four clinics is offered in chapter two, and confirms certain of the findings of chapter one. Following evaluation this survey identified the lack of sexual health information available to clients in some areas of genitourinary medicine.

In chapter six the author looks at the impact of ethnicity, stating that there is no such thing as a multicultural approach in the singular, but that there are many cultures. Language is a barrier often encountered by non English speakers, particularly in the written translation of health education information, and she asks all workers in this area to be aware of this and other issues. The author of chapter seven describes the importance of sexuality, and related issues such as ethnicity, religion, and culture. He describes how workers in the field should be able to offer an approach to clients based on objectivity and compassion. In chapter five the author offers a drug workers perspective, identifying the shortfalls in his own area, and the time being expended on drug abuse, and not sexual, links with HIV infection.

The author of chapter 8, a senior health advisor, presents information on contact tracing and partner notification, and its impact on health promotion in one clinic. Chapter 9 offers a service users perspective, emphasising the importance of continuity of care particularly for the HIV positive patient, the importance of a multidisciplinary approach, the inclusion of alternative therapies, and the availability of a good listener.

The author of chapter 10 shows how she incorporates health promotion into her clinical work as a nurse in a GUM clinic, working with clients, practice nurses, school nurses and the general public, often using a multidisciplinary approach.

The authors of the final two chapters are a purchaser and a clinical director. Both illustrate the benefits of sexual health promotion within the genitourinary medical services, but introduce the issue of funding. The need for research and evaluation is emphasised prior to requesting such funding. The clinical director poses the final question on sexual health promotion, asking, "Can we afford it?" His immediate response being, "Can we afford not to?"

ANGIE CARPENTER